

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 579

By Williams

A RESOLUTION to honor NASCAR legend, Danny "Chocolate" Myers.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the Senate should honor and recognize a distinguished professional who has contributed significantly to this nation's proud heritage of stock car racing; and

WHEREAS, during the course of his seventeen years as the gas man with Richard Childress Racing's (RCR) famous Flying Aces pit crew, Danny "Chocolate" Myers became a true icon and respected spokesman for NASCAR Winston Cup racing and was nearly as recognizable to the public as his boss, Richard Childress, or his driver, the legendary Dale Earnhardt, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, for sixteen of these years, Chocolate worked on Dale Earnhardt's pit crew and celebrated six NASCAR Winston Cup Championships with The Intimidator, in addition to his breakthrough victory at the Daytona 500; and

WHEREAS, he was the gas man for the renowned Earnhardt pit crew that won four consecutive pit crew championships; and

WHEREAS, Chocolate always displayed perseverance, focus, and resolve in the face of adversity at the racetrack, and these qualities and his mental toughness became the hallmarks of the No. 3 GM Goodwrench team; and

WHEREAS, just as Dale Earnhardt was the heart of this team and NASCAR itself, Chocolate Myers was clearly the heart of the pit crew, especially in celebrating their many victories; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being a vital force in six NASCAR Winston Cup Championships with The Intimidator, Chocolate Myers's career highlights include Kevin Harvick's 2001 victory by only six one-thousandths of a second at Atlanta in only his third race

in the famous GM Goodwrench car and Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s victory in the 2001 Pepsi 400 at Daytona a mere four months after his father had lost his life at that same track; and

WHEREAS, Chocolate's remarkable success in NASCAR comes as no surprise due to his distinguished lineage in stock car racing; his father, Bobby Myers, was a fifteen-year veteran of NASCAR Grand National competition and recorded three top-ten finishes; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2002, Chocolate Myers fueled a RCR car for the last time; although he still enjoyed and was gifted at performing his duties, he graciously hung up his gas can to make way for new crew members deserving of an opportunity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Myers has since continued to serve RCR with distinction and dedication as the organization's Director of Safety; and

WHEREAS, Chocolate Myer's exemplary career spent in service to RCR and NASCAR is truly the stuff of legend, as he helped vault Dale Earnhardt, Sr. to six Winston Cup Championships, and this Body takes great pride in welcoming this outstanding gentleman to the Volunteer State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Danny "Chocolate" Myers, recognize his ongoing legacy with RCR and NASCAR, and commend him for his lifetime of unselfish service to America's favorite sport.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.